

CHAPTER NINE

PLAN COORDINATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Plan Coordination

Consultation was held with numerous government and private conservation organizations in the development of the IWAP - directly through their participation in the planning or reviews process or indirectly through review of wildlife conservation plans they had developed that included Iowa's SGCN. A review of public participation was included in the *Planning Process* section in Chapter 1. Other governmental or NGO members of the Steering Committee are listed in Table 1-2; members of Working Groups in Table 1-3, and members of the Advisory Group in Appendix 2-1. Strategic and operational plans and websites of other organizations consulted are listed in Appendix 20.

Guidance on Plan content and preparation was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the National Advisory Acceptance Team (NAAT). National Plan coordination meetings were attended by Iowa DNR staff in 2003 (Mesa AZ and Madison WI). The *One Year Out* conference held in Nebraska in 2004 was especially helpful. An interstate coordination meeting between representatives from Iowa, Missouri and Kansas was held early in the planning process to help identify interstate implementation efforts. A Plan status meeting with USFWS staff in February of 2005 and an early review of a Plan draft by USFWS staff also helped focus development of the final Plan.

Plan Implementation

The discussion in this section assumes that full funding for the IWAP (see Chapter 10) will be available or at least substantial funding to accomplish the major conservation actions that are described.

No single entity – government conservation agency, private conservation organization or research institution – can implement all conservation actions in this Plan even if full funding is achieved. To access all the energy, expertise and enthusiasm that will be needed an *IWAP Implementation Team* should be formed with representatives from all stakeholder organizations. Identifying an Implementation Team chairperson, solicitation of team members and coordination of its activities should be vested in IDNR as the statutory agency responsible for managing the state's wildlife resources. Team members should

represent state, Federal, county and local government wildlife and land management agencies and conservation organizations (see Interagency Cooperation below). Team members should have sufficient authority to speak for their agency or organization and be able to commit resources to carry out agreed-upon actions.

The purpose of the Implementation Team will be to coordinate to the extent possible the many actions of government agencies at all levels that impact wildlife and its habitats in Iowa. A list of those agencies that have had input into Plan development or should be included in Plan implementation is provided below. Creation of the Implementation Team is not intended to add another layer of bureaucracy or usurp the statutory authority, budget authority, or mission of any agency or NGO that seeks to improve the status of Iowa's wildlife. Cooperation with the IWAP should be completely voluntary. Once formed, the Implementation Team should establish its own mission, operating procedures and schedules. The following is a suggestion for team members to consider as they decide how they will function.

The mission of the Implementation Team should be to identify common interests, solidify working agreements, and focus members on conservation actions that meet the goals of the IWAP in the most financially efficient and timely manner possible. The Implementation Team's responsibilities should include:

- Identify permanent or short term Working Teams to implement the vision elements and conservation actions outlined in this Plan;
- Develop general assignments for Working Teams, reporting procedures and schedules;
- Review recommendations and priorities established by Working Teams for conservation actions and funding;
- Coordinate activities of the Implementation Team members to accomplish agreed-upon conservation actions;
- Review progress toward IWAP visions, goals, and actions; identify barriers to progress and seek solutions that cross agency and organization lines. The Implementation Team may initially have to meet regularly; but after the desired level of cooperation and action is reached it should meet at least annually to review progress and solve problems that may arise.

Working Teams will provide the level of deliberation and expertise necessary to develop operational plans that will fulfill the goals and vision of the IWAP. Members should include wildlife, recreation and outdoor education scientists; land managers, and experts in implementing programs in these fields.

Working Team members should have the technical expertise to:

- Review and explore program and planning options;
- Develop conceptual operational plans for conservation agencies, NGOs and private citizens to participate in;
- Develop and critically review technical proposals;
- Provide peer review for cooperating agencies operating plans;
- Develop conservation action and funding priorities for the Implementation Team to consider;
- Identify strategic and operational Plan shortcomings and recommend improvements.

Interagency Cooperation

Cooperation between agencies and organizations that manage public conservation lands in Iowa (IDNR, Iowa CCB's, USACOE and USFWS) will be essential to the successful implementation of IWAP. All have working relationships at both the state and local levels.

Many of the recommended conservation actions must be carried out on private land. NRCS provides technical assistance to landowners for land conservation projects and FSA provides funding. The IDNR director serves as Chair of the Farm Policy Committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies which advises NRCS and FSA on agriculture and wildlife policy issues and rule making procedures. IDNR has permanent positions on Iowa's USDA State Technical Committee and subcommittees that provide input into wildlife-friendly programs like WRP, CRP, EQUIP and WHIP. NRCS and IDNR cooperatively fund the DNR's Private Lands Program that uses USDA funding to establish wildlife habitat on private land. IDNR Wildlife Biologists are co-located in NRCS offices to promote close interaction between the DNR, NRCS staff and private landowners. All of these avenues will be utilized to promote the concepts and management recommendations identified in this Plan.

Iowa's eastern and western borders are defined by major river systems. IDNR fisheries and wildlife staff are heavily involved with cooperative projects that involve the border rivers - Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC), UMRCC Fish Technical Committee, Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA), MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Recovery Work Group, Fish and Wildlife Work Group, Fish and Wildlife

Interagency Committee, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Master Planning, Environmental Management Program (EMP)/Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) Analysis Team, EMP Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREP) planning and proposal review, EMP Coordinating Committee, EMP Water Level Management Task Force, Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program for Great Rivers Ecosystems (EMAP-GRE), and Mississippi River Mussel Coordination Team.

IDNR fisheries personnel are involved with the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC), the MRNRC Fish Technical Committee, Missouri River Mitigation Committee, Master Manual Review Committee, MICRA, MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Recovery Work Group, Missouri River Basin Association (MRBA), MRBA Roundtable, USFWS Fish Passage Grants, and Shallow Water Habitat Committee. They also coordinate fisheries issues with the eight MRB states to develop Missouri River recovery and ecosystem restoration plans

Northeast area Iowa DNR fisheries personnel are working through the Upper Iowa River Alliance to coordinate with the state of Minnesota to test water quality on the Upper Iowa River. Information from this project is used to prioritize Upper Iowa River tributaries for watershed management practices that address impairments discovered in the water testing.

Iowa DNR fisheries research personnel are coordinating shallow lakes management investigations with Minnesota DNR and Wisconsin DNR. Iowa DNR fisheries culture personnel work with drug (fish disease) issues with many state and federal agencies. Iowa DNR staff is represented on the Topeka shiner recovery team that includes representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, SDGFP, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Minnesota DNR, Missouri Department of Conservation, South Dakota State University, University of Minnesota, and private consultants. Fisheries biologists with Topeka shiner populations in their management areas in Iowa work with the USFWS on critical habitat and habitat restoration on private land.

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) issues are addressed by Iowa DNR fisheries personnel with support from several partnerships including the Mississippi River Basin Panel on ANS, Asian Carp Management and Control Plan Work Group, Missouri River ANS Work Group, and Midwest Invasive Plant Network.

DNR staff also serves on a number of national and regional committees including the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Technical Committee and Board, The Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Board, the Mississippi Flyway Council, Mississippi Flyway Council Technical Section, Midwest Deer and Turkey Study Group, Midwest Furbearer Workshop, Midwest Private Lands Working Group and Midwest Pheasant Council. All provide

opportunities for review of plan activities and integration of conservation actions in other wildlife programs.

Establishing formal communication through inter-state working groups similar to those that exist for many game species (discussed above) could greatly improve implementation of plans for states that have shared wildlife resources.

IWAP Review

If the general outline of activities that is proposed in this Plan is followed, review of the IWAP will occur as follows:

- Achievements will be compiled and made available to the public as individual projects are completed (Chapter 7);
- Work Teams will review operational activities on a continual and ongoing basis;
- The Implementation Team will review activities at least annually;
- Review of the long term wildlife monitoring project will occur at least after 5 years when the initial inventory is complete.
- The Steering Committee recommends that a formal review of the entire IWAP should take place after no more than 10 years or oftener if desired by the Implementation Team.

The 10-year review should be as thorough as the original planning process. It should include a review of achievements, the status of all of Iowa's wildlife and its habitats, stresses that have been resolved or have intensified, the effectiveness of the IWAP in improving the status of Iowa's wildlife, and the public's acceptance of the Plan and its achievements. This review should strengthen the action plan and direct any changes needed to be sure that its visions are implemented in the 25-year time frame.

Chapter Ten

The Cost of Sustaining Iowa's Biodiversity

The costs of reaching the goals outlined in this Plan exceed the historic levels of conservation funding in Iowa. Hunters and anglers have funded most wildlife conservation. National and state trends indicate that the number of participants in hunting and fishing is declining. IDNR resident fishing and hunting license sales are decreasing about 1% a year. Approximately 45% fewer Iowans buy hunting licenses today than a generation ago. Total revenues to fund wildlife programs have increased recently because of the rapid increase in deer and wild turkey populations, but that trend is predicted to stabilize or decrease. To reach the goals established in this Plan a broader spectrum of Iowans must share in the funding burden. The Plan contains elements that should more than compensate Iowans for their support in the form of increased recreation, better health, improved quality of life, and improved economic vitality in rural Iowa.

The annual cost to double the amount of permanently protected wildlife habitat by 2030 is estimated to be \$48 million (Table 10-1). Currently \$29.6 million is available from a combination of hunter-angler licenses and excise taxes, Federal wildlife appropriations, Federal water quality appropriations, Federal farm programs, and NGO and CCB activities *if these funds were all dedicated to permanently protecting wildlife habitat*. It also assumes that Congress will fund SWG programs at the level anticipated by CARA and that state matching funds will be made available. That would leave a shortfall of \$18.4 million a year to be raised from other sources.

Additional costs to implement the Plan are listed in the right two columns of Table 10-1. Combining the habitat protection and habitat management, survey and science costs brings the total funding needed to approximately \$40 million annually. For purposes of reference only, the revenues raised from adding a 1/8% sales tax is \$44 million. Many other funding options are available.

Table 10-1. Cost to Double the Amount of Permanently Protected Conservation Land in Iowa by 2030

Habitat Protection		Habitat Management & Science	
Acres in Iowa	36,000,000	Public Land Management	\$15,000,000
Acres Protected by 2030	1,250,000	Private Lands Assistance	\$6,000,000
Current Acres Protected	650,000	Education	\$1,500,000
Additional Acres Needed	600,000	Recreation	\$1,500,000
Cost/acre	\$2,000	Science & Monitoring	\$4,000,000
Total Cost	\$1,200,000,000		
Cost/Year	\$48,000,000		\$28,000,000
Existing Sources of Funds		Existing Funds	
Dedicated Funds		Land Management	\$6,000,000
Iowa Habitat Stamp	\$1,600,000	Private Lands Assistance	\$1,000,000
Iowa Migratory Bird Stamp	\$250,000	Total Available	\$7,000,000
REAP License Plates	\$400,000		
Sub-total	\$2,250,000	Annual Shortfall	\$21,000,000
Appropriated Funds			
Federal NAWCA/PPJV	\$2,000,000	New Funds Needed	
Federal NRCS - WRP	\$10,000,000	Habitat Protection	\$18,375,000
Federal SWG	\$375,000	Habitat Manage/Science	\$21,000,000
Federal EPA	\$5,000,000	Total	\$39,375,000
Sub-total	\$17,375,000		
Non-State and Federal Donations			
CCB's	\$2,000,000		
PF/DU/NWTF/TNC	\$2,000,000		
Sub-total	\$4,000,000		
New Sources of Funds			
Federal - New CARA	\$4,500,000		
State Matching	\$1,500,000		
Sub-total	\$6,000,000		
Available Per Year	\$29,625,000		
Annual Shortfall	\$18,375,000		